



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 31, 2005 – United States Attorney Craig S. Morford, Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, announced that retired Macomb County sheriff deputy, Ronald Lupo, age 70, a resident of Shelby Township, Michigan, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Duggan to 80 months imprisonment. Mr. Lupo had previously been found guilty following a jury trial of one count of conspiracy to commit racketeering between 1990 and 2002 in Macomb County, conspiracy to commit extortion, and extortion. In addition, the court ordered Mr. Lupo to pay \$300,000.00 in restitution to the East Detroit Public Schools and the Clintondale Community Schools.

Assistant United States Attorney John Engstrom, who prosecuted the case, stated that "the evidence presented to the jury, and relied upon by the court in sentencing Mr. Lupo, established that Lupo conspired with the former Superintendent of the Clintondale Schools to extort cash and free home improvements from a construction manager, Hudson Construction, Inc., responsible for overseeing over \$50,000,000 in bond projects at the two districts. The government proved

approximately \$600,000 in cash payments to Lupo and Contesti between November 1994 and December 1998, as well as substantial home improvements.”

In a related hearing, last week Judge Duggan sentenced former East Detroit Public Schools’ Superintendent John Gardiner to 46 months imprisonment for his role in accepting bribe payments from Hudson Construction in return for favorable consideration within the District.

Mr. Morford commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service for its investigation of this case which led to the successful prosecutions of Mr. Lupo and Dr. Gardiner.

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